

remarkable accomplishment at a time when religious differences still threaten to divide us from one another and from other nations.

I first met Imam Antepli last September at a meeting of Islamic study scholars in which he participated, and I was immediately struck by enthusiasm, his intellect and his readiness to engage. Throughout his career, he has truly exemplified the notion of faith in action and has made a habit of practicing the values of tolerance, understanding and respectful dialogue, which he preaches.

So, Madam Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of all of our colleagues to introduce and welcome Imam Abdullah Antepli to the House here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AFGHANISTAN, TO STAY OR TO GO

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. I am a proud Member of this institution. I believe in this Congress, and I believe in the Constitution of the United States. And I think moments arise in the history of this institution when we have to take a stand for the Constitution. That's why this Thursday I will introduce a privileged resolution that will call for Congress to reclaim its power under Article I, Section 8 as to whether or not we stay in Afghanistan.

Now, some people here may believe in that mission. I don't. Some people here may believe in the surge. I don't. Some people here may believe that we should stay there for as long as it takes to do whatever we want. I don't. I believe that Congress, though, needs to speak and to have a debate on Afghanistan and to be able to decide in our wisdom, if we so choose, to get out of Afghanistan, which is what I hope that we do.

But whether you're for it or against it, Congress finally will have a chance to have that debate because the privileged resolution is being introduced on Thursday. It will lay over the week, and next week we will finally have a debate over whether to stay in Afghanistan or leave. And I hope we vote to leave.

HOME DEPOT PROMOTES JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Home Depot's Rapid Deployment Center. Located in the midlands of South Caro-

lina, this Rapid Deployment Center will not only create new jobs for South Carolinians, but it will also give Home Depot stores more flexibility to control the products on their shelves and keep these products in stock.

Detailed by Home Depot, the new Rapid Deployment Center is a 465,000 square-foot facility located in West Columbia. It will provide 220 full-time jobs at startup; and as more stores are added to the program, this will increase to 400 jobs. I want to thank Home Depot for their continuing economic contributions to our State, and I welcome these in addition to the positions of 2,660 Home Depot associates already in South Carolina. In these tough times, it's important for lawmakers to give businesses like Home Depot the tools they need to help small businesses create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The prayers of America are with the people of Chile.

CBO'S RECOVERY ACT ASSESSMENT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, at a recent hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, testified that CBO's latest assessment of the Recovery Act found that it had increased our real GDP by as much as 3.5 percentage points, increased the number of people employed by between 1 million and 2.1 million people, and lowered the unemployment rate by as much as 1.1 percent. In short, the stimulus spending bill worked, but we need to do more to grow jobs now.

He also testified that one of the most powerful generators of job growth would be an employer tax credit for businesses that increased their payrolls similar to one I proposed in H.R. 4585 and to one Congress intends to send to the President. These historically difficult times and this growing, but fragile, economy cry out for us to take action, help create more private sector jobs, and get our economy working again for everyone.

THE THIRD FRONT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the war against international terrorism continues in Iraq and Afghanistan, I bring you news from the third front, the U.S.-Mexico border, the real inconvenient truth. Recently, the U.S. consular office in the border town of Reynosa, Mexico, closed indefinitely. U.S. officials are barred from the area. The reason, because there are kidnappings and murders and Old West-

style shoot-outs in the streets, all on account of violent drug lords fighting over turf on the poorest border.

The United States is not doing enough to stop the international drug cartels and the human smugglers. The greatest Nation on Earth is failing the American people by not adequately protecting the border. Drugs and people are going north, and money and guns are going south. The border has become a war zone that affects good people on both sides of the border. We're sitting on a powder keg that we ignore at our own peril. While we have troops overseas to protect the borders of foreign countries, we should be just as concerned about our own sovereign border.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S LOBO MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand on the House floor today to congratulate our University of New Mexico Lobos men's basketball team for winning the 2010 Mountain West Conference Championship. In this truly remarkable season, the Lobos tied the school record for consecutive conference wins. This is the second consecutive year that the Lobos have won the conference championship. And the team recently cracked the Nation's top 10 in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls, a feat not accomplished in more than a decade.

To all the team members and to the academic all-American and team leader, senior Roman Martinez, and to all the UNM students, faculty and staff, I want to congratulate you on a tremendous season, and I look forward to your continued success in the rest of March Madness.

Finally, I want to wish the team good luck tonight in their game against TCU, and I join the rest of the Lobos nation in declaring, "Everyone's a Lobo. Woof, woof, woof."

HONORING CARLOS ARAGON

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. America lost one of its finest. Carlos Aragon, 19 years old, from Orem, Utah, was killed while serving as a Marine in the Helmand province. It's so sad when you hear these reports. Your hearts and your thoughts and your prayers go out to the family. But at the same time, your heart is filled with pride that these young men and women will step up at such a young age to fight and protect this country and fight and protect for the good of the United States of America.